Cataloguing has been around for many a year there have been trials and tests to judge what is the best way of doing it. Some have stood the test of time while others have been made redundant, others chopped and changed. As the way we receive information is evolving so is the way we store it. To stay current we have used MARC21, ACCR2 and applied their use on OCLC and also the Dewey Decimal System for this for this project.

The fundamental logic to remember when composing or altering a catalogue entry is that it should be as Taylor (2000, pg10) points out *‘constructed and formatted so that all entries can be found quickly and easily formed*.’ There are many ways to do this but it is important to bear in mind, it doesn’t matter what you use as long as it is easy to find information promptly and is user friendly.

To appreciate how far cataloguing has come and where it’s derived from, this is a quick history from the birth of cataloguing through its’ infancy that has blossomed into the productive asset it has become to librarians. Indeed as students studying to be librarians it’s crucial we comprehend the process of cataloguing to implement the rules when we become librarians ourselves.

Looking at the timeline of cataloguing stages some concepts were developed at different times such as MARC21 records the AACR2 rules as well as OCLC. We are privileged today to have the combination of all three but for those starting out in this field many years ago those engaged with the cataloguing process were left with missing pieces of a jigsaw. This puzzled them but they used what knowledge they had as building blocks and soon came up with robust cataloguing procedures.

AACR rules - Anglo- American Cataloguing Rules

Taylor (2000,pg25) divulges the birth of cataloguing rules came about by Anthony Panizzi Keeper who worked with the Printed Books at the British Museum. In 1841 his rules were published and they became known as Panizzi’s 91 rules. These rules were held in high esteem so much so as Taylor (2000,pg25) notes ‘*it has exerted an influence on every Western world code that has been created since it’s publication’* Not only did Panizzi have librarians in mind accessing a catalogue system his vision was encompassed anyone could use it and find what they are searching for. Taylor( 2000,pg 25) penned down Panizzi’s view in a nutshell ‘*Panizzi believed that anyone looking for a particular work should be able to find it through the catalogue and he wrote rules with that goal in mind'*

Following on from that Taylor(2000,pg 25) praises the work of the librarian Charles A Cutter who had rules of his own and emphasised the importance of laying them out in an organised manner. Common sense prevails that there is no point having an elaborate cataloguing system if finding the records at a later stage is like finding a needle in a haystack.

After Cutter and Panizzi’s effort to bring about a cataloguing system Taylor (2000, pg 26) remarks the ALA asked Lubetzky to review the former cataloguing rules of Cutter and Panizzi established and make them more contemporary. The final version of the Statement of Principles (often called the Paris Principles) was adopted and the participants from 53 countries agreed to work in the various countries.

Wikipedia (2012) states that *‘AACR2 is published by combining the views of the American Library Association, the Canadian Library Association and the Chatered Institute of Library and Information professionals in the UK. The author is highly acclaimed and rated by ALA and CLIP. ‘AARC2 is designed for use in the construction of catalogues…in general libraries of all sizes’*

Once the rules were established the next problem to tackle was finding a way to computerise these rules. They needed to be formatted in a clear concise manner so that libraries can be connected and share plural information and mirror the same system from library to library. Thanks to the invention of MARC records this was now possible.

**MARC21 Records –Machine Readable code**

According to Taylor (2000, pg 21) MARC records have been about for roughly 47 years since 1965. Separate locations had separate identities such as USMARC, RUSMARC, DENMARC etc. 1999 saw the different MARC systems unite and come under the umbrella name MARC21. The name implies that it is current and in tune with the 21st century.

It’s versatile and easy records has been so successful it is incorporated and applied to many library catalogue models worldwide. Bowman (2008, pg39)confirms *this 'Currently the MARC encoding holds the position of being one used for bibliographic records in the vast majority of the world’s entire catalogues'*

MARC cannot stand alone without AACR2, AACR2 produces the rules and MARC provides codes to process the information. Bowman (2008, pg 16) confirms this *'it is important to realise that it is AACR2 that gives you the rules to follow when producing catalogue records. MARC simply gives you a structure to the records produced as a result of the following the rule: MARC is not a cataloguing in itself'* MARC cannot stand alone it was created to use in conjunction with AACR2

Bowman (2008, pg 17) explains the codes used in MARC are called tags which are a set of three digit numbers such as 008, 245 etc. These tags introduce fields in which information relating to is being catalogued.

**OCLC – Online Computer Centre**

Wikipedia b(2012)– sums up what OCLC is about ‘*OCLC is a ‘non-profit’ membership, computer library service and research organisation dedicated to the public purposes of furthering access to the world’s information and reducing information costs. Founded in 1967 as the Ohio College Library centre, OCLC and it’s member libraries cooperatively produce and maintain Worldcat the largest online public access catalogue (OPAC) in the world’*

Taylor (2000, pg 10) confirms OPAC popularity ‘OPAC can be considered the most flexible and current of all catalogue formats. Additions, deletions and changes can be made at any time and the results instantly available to the user'

Wikipedia provide facts that show *‘More than 72,000 libraries in 170 countries and territories use OCLC services to locate, acquire, catalogue, lend and preserve library materials.’* It is a joint effort between OCLC and library members to keep the WorldCat system current and up to date.

As already mentioned MARC is was formulated to carry out the rules of AACR2 on OCLC. Wikipedia b(2012) remarks how MARC and OCLC co-exist along side each other *‘MARC format contributed by library catalogues worldwide who use OCLC as a cataloguing tool. These MARC records are downloaded into the libraries ‘local catalogue systems. This allows libraries to find and download records for materials to add to their local catalogue without the lengthy process of cataloguing each one’*

**Dewey**

School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia (2012) recognises Merville Dewey’s achievements and the impact he has had on libraries world wide. They voice the opinion that there has been speculation over who created the Dewey Decimal system. They suggest perhaps it was a number of systems merged together and the outcome was the sole work of Merville Dewy. There is no point squabbling over the origins as this does not matter. However it is important to honour M Dewey’s contribution as School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia (2012) confirm ‘*Dewey was the first person to properly expand on and define his ideas concerning a classification that placed books into a relative order based on disciplines rather than an alphabetical order, or one that simply identifies a shelf space for a specific book.’*

The Dewey Decimal system has been successful and enhanced cataloguing. So much so it has be adopted and integrated into nearly all libraries worldwide.

The Dewey system makes it easy to categorise and locate books as they are grouped by genres. This process saves a librarian a lot of time that can be used for other activities. School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia (2012) explains how it works *The DDC was the first timely modern system that introduced features like relative locations and a relative index. This allowed books to be placed in stacks based on their relationships to one another, and freed libraries to begin more freely organizing their libraries. The system grew from its first edition in 1876 and has been translated into over 30 languages, and is in the process of being translated into other numerous languages. These languages include: Arabic, Chinese, French, Greek, Hebrew, Icelandic, Italian, Korean, Norwegian, Russian, and Spanish*.

Although Dewey has passed on, his legacy remains the Dewey system is now managed and maintained by the Library of Congress. According to School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia (2012) -The designated Dewey Editorial Office ‘*assigns 110,000 DDC numbers to catalogued works annually, and prepares modifications and expansions to the DDC schedules.’*

**These tools and services are used worldwide they have utilized by a loyal following and have earned a remarkable reputation. From looking at the history we can see how they have evolved and the system is constantly reviewed to keep them modern. The founding fathers of cataloguing have built a secure foundation that allows us to add and modify it as we see fit. For this project we are fortunate to implement these tools and services.**

**References**

**Bowman, J. H. (2008) Essential Cataloguing. London : Facet Publishing**

**Taylor, A. G. (2000) Wynar’s Introduction to Cataloguing and Classification. Colorado : Libraries Unlimited, INC.**

Wikipedia a(2012) AACR2

Retrieved April 9th 2012 at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AACR2>

Wikipedia b(2012) Online Computer Library Centre

**Retrieved April 9th 2012 at**

[**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OCLC**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OCLC)

School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia. (2012)The History of D.D.C. System and its Creator Melville Dewey

Retrieved April 10th 2012

<http://www.slais.ubc.ca/courses/libr517/02-03-wt2/projects/dewey/P1Section1.htm>